Education in Today’s Era

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Hi, the reason I’m writing this is because one day I actually dreamt about this (no joke). I live in Malaysia, and here, the education route is pretty standard — 2 years in kindergarten, 6 years in primary school, 5 years in secondary, and about 4 years for an undergraduate degree. Sounds long, right? But yes, that’s the normal path. Without going through all this, you can’t really get a job, because society generally won’t recognise you or hire you.

All this sounds normal… until you hear about ChatGPT 5.0 (just released when I’m writing this) and Elon Musk’s Grok 4. These things are crazy. My question is: what about the education needs of our future generation? Do they still need to study? Why study when we have ChatGPT and Grok 4? There’s no way any child can be “smarter” than AI. These systems collect knowledge from millions or billions of people, plus all the formulas, so how can a human compete?

So here are my questions: 1. Is education still needed in the future? 2. Why should anyone spend so much money getting a professional degree, master’s, or PhD when they can just type and ask AI? 3. Can you even tell which parts of this essay are mine and which are AI-generated? Honestly, you can’t. That means tutors and teachers also can’t tell whether students’ work is their own or from AI. The same goes for job applications and interview answers. This is actually very dangerous.

Alright, here’s what I personally think. My answer is YES — we definitely still need education, but maybe the structure has to change. Whether it’s the length of study or the content itself, it has to adapt to AI. The truth is, AI can do a lot of things better than us, and we have to accept that. But that also means we must learn how to use AI effectively. (I know a lot of researchers say the same thing, but we really do need to figure it out… which, honestly, I still haven’t figured out yet, HAHAHAH.)

I’m also worried because I work in the finance, investment, and accounting field. After seeing editors, writers, and news reporters lose their jobs to AI, I can’t help but think it’s just a matter of time before more industries are affected. That’s why we need to start thinking of strategies now. The good news is, I think we still have a few years, considering cost, public acceptance, and company implementation. But time is ticking.

And don’t forget — there’s also a huge risk in fully relying on AI. Who knows? Maybe one day all the AI systems crash, all the data leaks, or access suddenly costs billions to use. If that happens, and you don’t have an education because you depended on AI for

everything, you'll be stuck. This is exactly why we still need to build our own knowledge and skills, just in case.

So yes, life can be unfair. Some people may lose jobs even if they studied hard for years. But those who can adapt and learn to work with AI — while still keeping their own skills — will have a much better chance of surviving in this new world. It's not about being smarter than AI, but about using it wisely without losing ourselves.

So these are all my questions and thoughts. I'm really curious to hear what you all think too.

--- Written by Kah Wei